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Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AF-08
CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-07 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NASA-01
NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01 PRS-01
OES-06 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 /127 W
----------310549Z 034968 /12
R 301810Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 163
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 3406

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, TECH, TD
SUBJECT: NPT ADHERENCE

REF: STATE 294526

SUMMARY: CHARGE TOGETHER WITH ACTING BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER MET WITH ACTING PERMANENT SECRETARY OFL TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO FOREIGN MINISTRY DECEMBER 30 TO URGE TRINIDAD TO RAFTIFY THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT). PERMANENT SECRETARY CONFIRMED GOTT INTENTION OIN PRINCIPLE TO ADHERE TO NPT AND PROMISED TO DUST OFF SUBJECT AND BRING IT TO GOVERNMENT FOREFRONT FOR CURRENT CONSIDERATION. END SUMMARY.

1. ACTING BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER WAS INFORMED BY HMG OF USG INSTRUCTIONS OF DECEMBER 3 (REFTEL) TO RENEW REPRESENTATIONS URGING ADHERENCE TO NPT. BRITISH HICOM HAD FURTHER BEEN INSTRUCTED ALSO TO TAKE UP THIS MATTER AGAIN WITH TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO GOVERNMENT (GOTT) IN COORDINATION WITH AMERICAN EMBASSY.

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2. ALTHOUGH, AS NOTED IN PARA SIX OF REFTEL, NPT QUESTION HAD ALREADY BEEN RAISED IN LOW-KEY AND INFORMAL MANNER WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS HERE DURING OCTOBER 1976 VISIT OF STATE DEPT. DESK OFFICER, II CONCLUDED THAT IN VIEW OF THE BRITISH INSTRUCTIONS WE HAD A USEFUL OPPORTUNITY TO PURSUE

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THE SUBJECT IN A MORE FORMAL CONTEXT. I THEREFORE QUICKLY AGREED TO ASSOCIATE MYSELF WITH THE BRITISH REPRESENATIONS IN ORDER TO CARRY OUT MORE FULLY THE INTENT OF REFTEL INSTRUCTIONS.

3. ACTING BRITISH HICOM (PATERSON) AND I MET DECEMBER 30 WITH THE ACTING PERMANENT SECRETARY OF THE TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (BALLAH) AND MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF. WER PRESENTED OURSELVES IN CONTEXT OF OUR GOVERNMENTS ASCO-REPOSITORIES FOR NO-PROFLIFERATION TREATY. BRITISH INSTRUCTIONS WERE ENTIRELY CONSONANT WITH OUR OWN AND THE ESULTING DUAL PRESENTATION WAS THE MOST SUBSTATIVE AND USEFUL THAT I BELIEVE WE HAVE HAD ON THIS SUBJECT FOR SOME TIME.

4. BALLAH FRANKLY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT RATIFICATION OF NPT HAD GOTTEN BURIED IN THE GOTT BY ISSUES SEEMING TO HAVE GREATER DOMESTIC PRIORITY. TRINIDAD HAD, IN PRINCIPLE, EXPRESSED ITS INTENT TO ADHERE AT THE TIME IT HAD SIGNED THE TREATY. INERTIA AND CABINET SHIFTS OVER TIME HAD TENDED TO RELEGATE THE ISSUE TO THE BACK BURNER FOR ANALYSIS IN THE CONTEXT OF A GENERAL REVIEW OF ALL TREATIES AND COMMITMENTS INHERITED FROM THE UK AT THE TIME OF INDEPENDENCE, MAY OF WHICH NEEDED REASSESSMENT OR RENEGOTIATION. THE LARGER REEVALUATION OF TREATY COMMITMENTS HAD BEEN SLOWED BY SHORTAGES OF STAFF AND INTERPOSITION OF CONTEMPORARY PRIORITIES. NEVERTHELESS, BALLAH SAID HE FOUND OUR REPRESENTATIONS REGARDING THE INCREASING IMPORTANCE OF THE NPT TO BE CONFIDENTIAL

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PERSUASIVE, AND HE PROMISED THAT HE WOULD "DUST OFF"

NPT ADHERENCE WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT AND SEE THAT IT RECEIVED FULL CONSIDERATION AGAIN EARLY II 1977. HE UNDERTOOK TO COMMUNICATE WITH US FURTHER AT THAT TIME.

5. COMMENT: WHILE THIS IS NO ASSURANCE THAT ANY FINAL ACTION WILL BE TAKEN IN THE NEAR FUTURE (AND IN VIEW OF PAST EXPERIENCE OF GOTT I AM NOT VERY OPTIMISTIC), I BELIEVE OUTCOME OF OUR REPRESENTATIONS WAS MORE POSITIVE THAN I WOULD HAVE ANTICIPATED, AND THAT THE ISSUE WILL REALLY BE "DUST OFF" THIS TIME. MY BRITISH COLLEAGUE AGREES WITH THIS ASSESSMENT.
RICH

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